

IN THE CLAIMS

The presently pending claims are reproduced below for the Examiner's convenience:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): An information processing apparatus having an interface for connection with networks, the information processing apparatus comprising:

managing means for managing settings for connectable networks as profiles on a network by network basis;

detecting means for detecting a first phase connection to a detected network;

means for judging whether the detected network has actually changed;

determination means for determining whether the managing means manages a managed profile corresponding to the detected network when the means for judging judges that the detected network has actually changed; and

establishing means for automatically establishing a second phase connection to the detected network based on the managed profile if the determination means determines that the managing means manages the managed profile corresponding to the detected network, said establishing means including a switcher configured to switch access to the detected network using the first phase connection and the second phase connection when a predetermined condition is determined to exist, and said switcher includes an icon display mechanism configured to produce an icon on a display that notifies a user that the switcher is an active process.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the detecting means detects the first phase connection to the detected network by determining whether or not a routing table is modified.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The information processing apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein the detecting means detects, as the first phase connection, a connection to a detected gateway that manages a network,

wherein the determination means determines whether the managing means manages a profile relating to the detected gateway, and

wherein the establishing means establishes the second phase connection to the detected gateway in accordance with the managed profile relating to the detected gateway.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

counter means for counting up by one when the detecting means detects the first phase connection to the detected network, and

zero determination means that determines whether a subtracting of one from the count of the counter means makes zero when the detecting means detects the first phase connection to the detected network,

wherein the zero determination means determines whether the managing means manages the managed profile relating to the detected network detected by the detecting means when the zero determination means determines that subtracting of one from the count of the counter means makes zero,

wherein the establishing means establishes the second phase connection to the detected network in accordance with the managed profile relating to the detected network while the zero determination means determines that the subtracting of one from the count of the counter means makes zero.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The information processing apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein, using at least one of an SSID, an MAC address, an IP address, and a connection name provided by the user, the determination means determines whether the managing means manages the managed profile, relating to the detected network detected by the detecting means.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The information processing apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein if the interface of the detected network is one of a wired LAN interface and a wireless LAN interface, the first phase connection is a connection to a gateway that manages the detected network, and the second phase connection is a connection to another apparatus through the gateway, and

wherein if the interface of the detected network is a modem, the first phase connection is a connection to an ISP, and the second phase connection is a connection to another apparatus through the ISP.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising starter means which automatically starts a predetermined software application set by a user when the second phase connection to the network is established by the establishing means.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): An information processing method for an information processing apparatus having an interface for connection with networks, the information processing method comprising:

a managing step for managing settings for connectable networks as profiles on a network by network basis;

a detecting step for detecting a first phase connection to a detected network;

judging with a processor whether the detected network has actually changed;

a determination step for determining whether a managed profile corresponding to the detected network is managed in the managing step when in the judging step it is judged that the detected network has actually changed; and

an establishing step for automatically establishing a second phase connection to the detected network based on the managed profile if the determination step determines that the managed profile corresponding to the detected network is managed in the managing step, said establishing step including activation of a switcher configured to switch access to the detected network from the first phase connection to the second phase connection when a predetermined condition is determined to exist, and said switcher includes an icon display mechanism configured to produce an icon on a display that notifies a user that the switcher is an active process.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): A non-transitory computer program product having computer readable instructions that when executed on a computer controls an information processing apparatus having an interface for connection with networks, and performs steps comprising:

a managing step for managing settings for connectable networks as profiles on a network by network basis;

a detecting step for detecting a first phase connection to a detected network;

judging with a processor whether the detected network has actually changed;

a determination step for determining whether a managed profile corresponding to the detected network is managed in the managing step when in the judging step it is judged that the detected network has actually changed; and

an establishing step for automatically establishing a second phase connection to the detected network based on the managed profile if the determination step determines that the managed profile corresponding to the detected network is managed in the managing step, said establishing step including activation of a switcher configured to switch access to the detected network from the first phase connection to the second phase connection when a predetermined condition is determined to exist, and said switcher includes an icon display mechanism configured to produce an icon on a display that notifies a user that the switcher is an active process.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The information processing apparatus according to claim 3,

wherein said detecting means detects, as said first phase connection, plural connections to plural gateways, and

said establishing means automatically establishes said second phase connection to the gateway which has a lowest value of a metric of the managed profile.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): An information processing apparatus having an interface for connection with networks, the information processing apparatus comprising:

a managing mechanism configured to manage settings for connectable networks as profiles on a network-by-network basis;

a detector configured to detect a first phase connection to a detected network;

a processor programmed to judge whether the detected network has actually changed;

a determination mechanism configured to determine whether the managing mechanism manages a managed profile corresponding to the detected network when the processor judges that the detected network has actually changed; and

a connector configured to automatically establish a second phase connection to the detected network based on the managed profile if the determination mechanism determines that the managing mechanism manages the managed profile corresponding to the detected network, said connector including a switcher configured to switch access to the detected network from the first phase connection to the second phase connection when a predetermined condition is determined to exist, and said switcher includes an icon display mechanism configured to produce an icon on a display that notifies a user that the switcher is an active process.